

Children's Justice Act Committee
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Room, Side B
Crownsville, MD 21032
Thursday, January 16, 2020
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Detective Thomas Pyles, Chair
Kerry Hannan, Vice Chair
Yorri Berry
Mary-Ann Burkhart
Michelle Chudow
Stephanie Cooke
Ed Kilcullen
Diane Shaffer
Joan Stine

Guest:

Ross DiEdoardo, CASA of Harford County
Susan Hansell, Maryland Children's Alliance
MJ Price, CASA of Harford County

Staff:

Kelly Gorman, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
William Jernigan, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:37 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes (October 2019)

Minutes from the October 2019 meeting were provided to members. Dr. Chudow made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Burkhart seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Transitioned Aged Youth Initiative

Mr. DiEdoardo and Ms. Price, Harford County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), provided an overview of their Transitioned Aged Youth Initiative. The initiative puts a specific focus on youth you are preparing to age out of the foster care system. The advocates that work with these youth receive specific training on how to support this population of youth. Harford County CASA collaborates with the public school system through an Education Task Force to highlight the work of both Harford County CASA and school Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Harford County CASA also formed a partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a plan for assisting with providing life skills to transition aged youth. Ms. Price visits and consults with Prince George's County CASA to collaborate and share knowledge and resources.

V. CJA State Activity Discussion

Ms. Wheeler provided members with a chart breaking down the different types of CJA work being done across the country. The committee reviewed states with similar funding allocations to Maryland and compared program/services. Members specifically discussed Vermont's emphasis on training on youth problematic sexual behavior and the possibility of making this a priority area in Maryland for the next grant cycle.

VI. ChildFirst Proposal Discussion

Ms. Hansell presented an outlined budget proposal for the ChildFirst Training on behalf of Maryland Children's Alliance (MCA) to the committee. Committee members reviewed and discussed the proposal. MCA submitted a one year budget anticipating some change within the second year of the grant. A major focus of the proposal was limiting registration for the training to only Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and their Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) partners. The committee agreed that this was an appropriate condition due to the high demand for the ChildFirst Training and the limited number of seats available per training. Ms. Hansell plans to meet with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) to gather more information on the actual implementation of the training. MPCTC is the current organizer and host of the ChildFirst Training but will no longer be doing so after this current grant cycle. There was general agreement to continue working with MCA to reach a mutually accepted proposal/budget based on the discussion and concerns expressed.

VII. Old/New Business

Ms. Gorman provided the committee with an update on the Handle with Care Best Practices Workgroup. The workgroup held their first meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020. Members discussed the goals and project timeline of the Best Practices Guide. The guide will be broken down into sections specific to different audiences (first responders, school system, and mental health providers). Monthly check-ins will take place for the workgroup with a final draft completed in June/July 2020.

Ms. Gorman informed members that the committee's federal CJA Program Manager, Lauren Fischman, will be attending the next committee meeting in April. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020. This is the last day of Passover. If members are unable to attend the meeting due to religious obligations please inform Ms. Gorman ASAP.

Ms. Gorman also asked for members to provide updated contact information if any changes have been made.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Eby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Burkhart seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

April 16, 2020

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

100 Community Place

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